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SENATE MINUTES

February 26, 1979

1246

CALENDAR

1. 243 Administrative Involvement in Classroom Instruction (letter from Prof. Andrew Odell, 2/5/79). Motion passed to refer to the Educational Policies Commission.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

2. Report from the ad hoc Committee on Alternative Methods of Funding the Educational Media Center to be presented 3/26/79.
3. Discussion on the procedures of electing the chairperson and vice-chairperson of the Senate.
4. Discussion on the distribution of class lists.

DOCKET

5. 242 195 Recommendation Regarding "Hold System" for Reading, Writing, and Speaking (report from EPC, 2/5/79). Motion passed to approve recommendations as amended and editorially corrected.

The University Faculty Senate met at 4:04 p.m. February 26, 1979, in the Board Room, Chairperson Harrington presiding.

Present: Crawford, Gillette, Gish, Glenn, Harrington, Hendrickson, Metcalfe, Schurrer, Schwarzenbach, Tarr, Thomson, Wiederanders, Wood (ex officio).

Alternates: N. Vernon for G. A. Hovet, Rider for Richter.

Absent: Brown, D. Smith, M. B. Smith, Strein.

CALENDAR

1. 243 Administrative Involvement in Classroom Instruction (letter from Professor Andrew Odell, 2/5/79).

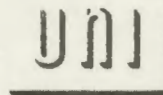
Vice Chairperson Tarr moved, Crawford seconded, to refer this item to the Educational Policies Commission for their consideration.

Several Senators suggested that Professor Odell provide additional information to EPC to aid in their deliberation. EPC Chairperson Vernon indicated that he felt the Commission could probably review this item either by the end of April or first part of May.

Motion passed.

OLD/NEW BUSINESS

2. Chairperson Harrington indicated that she had received communications from Professor Thompson, Chairperson of the ad hoc Committee on Alternate Methods of Funding the Educational Media Center. This communication indicated that the report of the Committee will be presented for discussion at the March 26 Senate meeting. Copies of the report will be sent to selected members of the administration for their review and comment.
3. The Senate had before it the following correspondence:



UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA • Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613

University Faculty
University Faculty Senate

TO: University Faculty Senate
FROM: Judith F. Harrington, Chair
DATE: February 23, 1979

This memo is in reference to a matter I brought to the Senate's attention in Spring, 1977, and many of the following comments are taken from my communication to the Senate at that time.

As you know, the leadership of the Senate is elected at the first meeting of the Senate in the fall semester. From my observations of these elections for the past six years, I am not convinced that serious thought is always given to the nominating process. (For instance, on several occasions as many as three to five individuals were nominated for Vice Chair, before a Senator finally was found who would consent to run for that office!)

Of more critical importance to me is the need for continuity of leadership from one year to the next. Under the current system, the new Chair is faced with the prospect of having to be thoroughly versed in many aspects of Senate business immediately upon being elected, with no opportunity to have prior access to special items that may be on the agenda for that day. Surely it would facilitate matters if the new officers were aware of their impending roles, so that they might become properly oriented prior to assuming office.

In addition to the factors identified above, an additional problem exists due to the current timing of elections. During the summer session, if either (or both) of the current Senate officers is not on campus, communication between the University community and the Senate is effectively stymied.

Thus, I would appreciate your serious re-consideration of a change in the By-Laws, Section 3, that would provide for the election of Senate officers during the spring semester. Since new Senators should be identified to the Senate by late April, you might wish to designate the time of the election to be the last regularly scheduled Senate meeting of the spring semester. Newly elected individuals would serve as officers-elect through the summer and would assume office at the beginning of the fall semester.

I will raise this matter for discussion during the Senate's meeting on February 26, under Old and New Business.

Thank you for your consideration.

JFH:j

Chairperson Harrington relinquished the Chair to Vice Chairperson Tarr.

Professor Harrington spoke to her letter citing that the current method of electing officers allows for a lack of time for the new Chairperson to adequately prepare to conduct the first meeting of the Senate. She stated also that the current system does not allow possible candidates the time to consider accepting office.

Senator Crawford spoke in favor of a change, citing that almost all other University committees change their leadership during spring term.

Senator Rider spoke from experience as a Chairperson of the Faculty to the value of a change in office leadership during the spring and summer months.

Several senators spoke on when the election could be held and which members of the Senate would be eligible to vote. It was suggested that new incoming senators could be present and could vote for the new chairperson. It was also suggested that a nominating committee could be created which would consist of the Chairperson of the Faculty and the members of the Senate who were about to leave office.

Senator Crawford volunteered to create proposals for changes in the By-Laws to accomodate the expressed wishes of the members of the Senate. Senator Crawford will have these proposals ready for discussion at the next Senate meeting.

Vice Chairperson Tarr transferred the Chair back to Professor Harrington.

4. Senator Gish raised a question by a constituent concerning the distribution of grade books. The question related to the constituent's perceived lateness of the distribution of the grade books.

Senator Glenn, citing faculty regulations as to the third week drop and add period, stated that class lists could not be distributed to the faculty earlier than the fourth week of class. He also pointed out that all instructors are provided with an initial class list at the beginning of the term.

Chairperson Harrington indicated that the Educational Policies Commission is discussing a similar area and that the constituent may wish to bring the concern before that body. It was also suggested by Senator Crawford that the constituent should bring the concern to the attention of the Scheduling Office directly.

DOCKET

5. 242 195 Recommendation Regarding "Hold System" for Reading, Writing, and Speaking (report from EPC, 2/5/79).

The Senate had before it the following communication:

REPORT OF THE EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMISSION SUBCOMMITTEE
ON THE "HOLD SYSTEM"

At its March 16, 1978 meeting, the Educational Policies Commission received a letter from the chair of the University Faculty Senate, Judith Harrington. In her letter, Professor Harrington informed the Commission that the Senate, at its February 27, 1978 meeting, had requested that the EPC consider a document from Gloria Rapinchuk, Director of the Learning Resources Center. The document was a letter from Ms. Rapinchuk to Professor Harrington, dated February 13, 1978, which requested that the EPC "discuss and make recommendations concerning the Hold System. . . ."

The EPC was able to devote two meetings to the question of the "Hold System" before the academic year 1977-78 ended; but the bulk of the task was left for the first order of business for the 1978-79 year. To date, the EPC has met seven times this year and all meetings have dealt exclusively with this issue.

In order to understand more fully the "Hold System" at UNI, the EPC has attempted to establish, from the available sources, the origin and development of this policy and practice. The first consultation was with the Registrar Robert Leahy, on October 26, 1978. Mr. Leahy provided the committee members with copies of excerpts from Faculty Senate Minutes containing information on the system. According to Leahy, a system of referral was "approved by the Faculty Senate on January 21, 1957, but the system did not mention anything about holds." These minutes, however, did contain an outline of specific recommendations for the "check system" for speech, suggesting that "the student not be permitted to graduate until he has attained the required proficiency." The minutes make no specific reference to any hold relating to writing proficiency; therefore, there is no official verification of a hold on graduation for a deficiency in writing.

Following the consultative session with Registrar Leahy, the EPC held an open forum for all interested faculty members to express their knowledge of the "hold" as they perceived it. The following people have contributed to the discussion through consultative sessions requested by the EPC:

Ray Kuehl, Coordinator of Student Teaching
Wayne King, Director of the Learning Skills Center
Robert Leahy, UNI Registrar
Judith Harrington, Department of Speech Pathology and
Audiology and Chair of the University Faculty Senate

In addition, the EPC received communications from various faculty members who could not attend the consultative sessions.

As a result of the information obtained through these consultative sessions and an analysis of available data, the EPC has determined that a "Hold System" officially instituted

by any faculty action does not exist for reading and writing although it does for speaking (Faculty Senate Minutes, May 20, 1957, Docket No. 585). However, there has been a gradual shift in both the interpretation and implementation of that policy. There is no support for the *Hold* policy ~~or any provisions to carry it out~~ among these faculty members in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology who are now responsible for administering it.

In view of these findings, therefore, we suggest that the University Faculty Senate reaffirm what we believe to be the original purpose of the reading, writing, and speaking requirement, which is to collect data for counseling purposes, and then direct the EPC to proceed with its deliberations within the framework of that intent. The EPC would then be free to re-examine the concept of a minimum competency requirement and a deficiency check-off referral system without being encumbered by the apparent discrepancy between present policy and practice.

Therefore, the membership of the EPC would like the University Faculty Senate to endorse the following motion:

Whereas the original action of the Faculty Senate was to "authorize the Registrar to provide places on the final class cards for the purpose of collecting for counseling purpose data on writing, speaking, and reading" (January 21, 1957, Docket No. 574); and

Whereas there ~~is~~ *has been uncovered* no evidence of subsequent action that amends this policy for the areas of writing and reading; and

Whereas there is no longer ~~a provision for a noncredit course for students who are checked deficient in speech, nor~~ a conviction among faculty in the Department of Speech Pathology and Audiology who now deal with the occasional student checked deficient in speech that ~~such a course is necessary~~; *a hold system for speech is legal*;

Therefore, the Faculty Senate does hereby reaffirm the original purpose of the referral check-off system for counseling purposes and requests that the Registrar maintain for the present the current practice of sending the names of students so referred to the Learning Skills Center;

Furthermore, the Senate directs the EPC to submit recommendations regarding,

- 1) the disposition of cases currently being held for graduation based upon the misapplication of the present check-off system;

- 2) provisions to insure writing competency in students who are not covered by the Writing Competency Program instituted in Fall 1978 and who may be judged deficient in writing; and
- 3) the continuance of a check-off referral system for any deficiencies.

Subcommittee Members

Professor Len Froyen
Professor Nile Vernon
Professor Evelyn Wood
Ms. Nancy Robinson, Student
Representative

EPC Chairperson Vernon indicated that this topic was initiated by concerns expressed by former Professor Rapinchuk over the ramifications of the Writing Competency Exam and the Writing Hold System.

Crawford moved, Vernon seconded, that the Senate move into a committee of the whole. Motion passed.

During the discussion in the committee as a whole, editorial changes were made to this item. Please consult the document for notation of the editorial changes.

The discussion centered on how the Hold System was created and how it has operated. Also discussed were the relationships between the Hold System and the concept of competency examinations.

Crawford moved, Tarr seconded, that the Senate rise from the committee of the whole. Motion passed.

Crawford moved, Schwarzenbach seconded, that the Senate approve the motion contained on pages 2 and 3 of the document.

Gish moved, Crawford seconded, to amend the second paragraph of the motion by replacing "is" with "has been uncovered." Motion to amend passed.

Question was called. The motion as amended and editorially changed was approved with one dissenting vote.

The Chair asked Professor Wayne King if he felt that EPC should act immediately concerning the disposition of students currently enrolled and up for graduation this May. Professor King responded that he did not believe such action was necessary at this time.

Crawford moved, N. Vernon seconded, to adjourn. Motion passed. The Senate adjourned at 5:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip L. Patton, Secretary

These minutes shall stand approved as published unless corrections or protests are filed with the Secretary of the Senate within two weeks of this date, Wednesday, March 7, 1979.